

Attorney Docket No. 2102401-900900

REMARKS

Claims 21-23 and 25-27 remain pending in this application. Claims 15-16, 18-19, and 28-32 have been withdrawn. Claims 1, 8, 17, 20 and 24 have been rejected. Claims 21-23 and 25-27 have been allowed. Claims 1, 8, 17, 20 and 24 are cancelled without prejudice.

Claims 1 and 8 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kamiyama et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,798,537) in view of *Okazaki* (U.S. Patent No. 5,990,500) and *Hayafuji et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,701,321).

Claims 1 and 8 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 20 has been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kamiyama et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,798,537) in view of *Bour et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,977,612).

Claim 20 has been cancelled without prejudice.

Claim 17 and 24 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over *Kamiyama et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,798,537) in view of *Paoli et al.* (U.S. Patent No. 5,138,265).

Claims 17 and 24 have been cancelled without prejudice.

Allowance and issuance of this application is respectfully requested.

Please address all future communications regarding this application to:

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Please charge any additional fees, including any fees necessary for extensions of time, or credit overpayment to Deposit Account No. 07-1896, referencing 2102401-900900.

Dated: April 6, 2004

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